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### The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle

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# Faculty Senate Chronicle for April 7, 2016

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April 7, 2016

11 pages

## SENATE ACTIONS

- Adopted curriculum change proposals brought forward by the Curriculum Review Committee.
- Adopted a recommendation to suspend block scheduling practices.

## Table of Contents

Minutes of Faculty Senate meeting held April 7, 2016 .....	3
Appendices to Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on April 7, 2016	
A. Report of the Academic Policies Committee.....	7
B. Report of the Curriculum Review Committee.....	8
C. Report of the Athletics Committee .....	10

## MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2016

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, April 7, 2016 in room 201 of the Buckingham Center for Continuing Education. Senate Chair William D. Rich called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Of the current roster of 64 Senators, 47 were present for this meeting. Senators Blackledge, Coffey, Filding, Holliday, Hreno, Kemp, Lillie, Moritz and Schaeffer were absent with notice. Senators Braun, Dey, Elliott, Kidd, Nofziger, Onita, Quinn, and Srivatsan were absent without notice.

### *I. Adoption of Agenda*

Moved by Senator Schwartz, the adoption of the agenda was approved without dissent.

### *II. Adoption of Minutes of the October meeting*

On Senator Clark's motion the minutes of the October meeting were approved without dissent.

### *III. Remarks of the Chairman*

Chair Rich remarked:

Among the items on today's agenda are the approval of curriculum changes reported by the Curriculum Review Committee; a report from the Academic Policies Committee recommending suspension of the Student Success Division's block cohort enrollment and pre-registration initiatives; and a report from Carolyn Behrman, Faculty Director of Collaboration for the Center for Experiential Learning, Entrepreneurship, and Civic Engagement.

As we will hear from the Academic Policies Committee later in this meeting, members of the Fall 2016 entering undergraduate class are being assigned to "cohorts" by the Division of Student Success, which then chooses the courses and sections thereof to be taken by each student. The members of each cohort are enrolled together in the same section of every course. Each student's class schedule is determined by the Student Success Division without so much as consulting the student to ascertain his or her interests, preferences, or schedule constraints. Students are precluded from changing their assigned schedules without the approval of an academic adviser. The Student Success Division apparently has determined that it is in the best academic interests of the students to make these decisions for them.

There is no doubt that incoming undergraduate students benefit from academic advice and guidance, but this initiative goes well beyond providing advice and guidance into the realm of paternalistic authoritarianism. This is a university, not a high school. Within reasonable limits, students should be free to choose which subjects to study – whether, for example, to take introductory sociology rather than introductory psychology – based on their own academic interests. (Apologies to the psychology professors present.) They should also be free – again, within reasonable limits – to schedule their classes around their work schedules or other personal needs. It would not be at all surprising if, upon learning that their courses and class schedules will be chosen for them by the University, many incoming students were to decide to attend another university that allows them to make those decisions for themselves. I know I would never have attended a university that insisted on making such decisions for me. At a time when confirmed admissions are down one-third from the same time last year, we can ill afford to risk driving more students away in this fashion.

This initiative was undertaken for its supposed academic benefits. Unfathomably, the decision to undertake it was made without consulting the faculty. Let me say this as plainly as I

can: The authority on academic matters in a university is its faculty. It disserves the interests of our students and, ultimately, the University as a whole when the faculty's role in making decisions on academic matters is usurped by non-academic administrators.

This ill-advised initiative must be stopped immediately. If not, in the interests of truth in advertising, perhaps the University's tag-line should be changed to "Ohio's authoritarian university."

This concludes my remarks.

#### *IV. Special Announcements*

There were no special announcements.

#### *V. Report of the Executive Committee*

Secretary Schulze reported:

Since the Faculty Senate last met on March 3rd the Executive Committee met twice by itself and once with the President and Interim Provost.

The Executive Committee met on March 17th for regular Senate business and to prepare for the meeting with the President and Interim Provost. We discussed the Computing and Communications Technologies Committee's plan to form a subcommittee to choose a new curriculum proposal system and questions regarding the EXL Center's "unclasses."

Later that day, we met with President Scarborough and Interim Provost Ramsier. We discussed the Trust Navigator Success Coaches and whether their contract will be renewed for the next academic year; the Learning Communities / Cohort Block Experience; plans to build a Stark State campus in Akron; the EXL Center "unclasses" and whether Carolyn Berhman should address Senate; and the Gen Ed Core 13 program.

The EC was updated on discussions with Higher Education Partners, which was described as "still in waiting mode"; a bill introduced that was supported by the Governor allowing Western Governor's Association into the state; the search for the Associate Provost for Assessment (a/k/a the assessment coordinator); meetings with Deans regarding the implementation of college strategic plans and allocation of additional full-time faculty positions; the strategic planning process for BCAS, University Libraries, Graduate School, and the Williams Honors College; the status of the process of reactivating the suspended and revised Theatre baccalaureate program; the Dean of University Libraries Search (there is not time for a search to hire a new dean for the upcoming Fall semester; we will need to appoint an interim); the Zook Hall renovations; and the Center for Data Science and Information Technology, the EXL Center, and the Corps of Cadets.

The EC next met on March 31st for regular senate business and to prepare the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. The Executive Committee certified the elections of Huey Li Li of the LeBron James Family Foundation College of Education and Dana Cole of the School of Law. We discussed Senator Miller's request to create an ad hoc committee to develop an institutional repository for faculty and student work (e.g. honors projects). He intends to propose this at the next Senate meeting. The EC also discussed the part-time faculty salary increase proposal that was passed in Senate, and the need to get that proposal moving along through University Council's Talent Development and Human Resources and Budget and Finance Committees.

This concludes the Executive Committee's report.

#### *VI. Remarks of the President*

The President did not attend the April meeting.

*VII. Remarks of the Interim Provost*

Interim Provost Ramsier remarked on processes of hiring for next fall and beyond; the weakness of the candidate pool for the Associate Provost For Assessment Committee; a plan B for assessment leadership; the status of the engineering dean search committee; and the status of faculty search committees. He further remarked on enrollment; on block scheduling; and on the budget. He advised faculty to comply with requests to submit materials for merit reviews.

Senators asked questions about small-class formulas; Stark State coming to Akron; ITT Tech; the no-confidence vote in the President; Gen Ed Core 13; and House Bill 48, which would allow state university boards of trustees to permit students to bring guns to campus.

*VIII. Approval of Commencement List for Spring 2016*

On Senator Allen's motion, the commencement list was approved without dissent.

*IX. Committee Reports*

A. Curriculum Review Committee

The senate adopted the list of proposed curriculum changes without dissent (see Appendix A).

B. Academic Policies Committee

Associate Dean Kennedy reported:

On Tuesday April 5th, the Academic Policies Committee discussed the block cohort enrollment and preregistration initiative utilized primarily by the Center for Academic Advising and Student Success. On the day of new student orientation, incoming freshmen are preregistered in courses, including specific sections and day/time combinations, prior to advising and without student input. Registration holds are also applied which prohibit students from altering the fall schedule without adviser consent. From the student perspective, these practices constitute the wholesale elimination of choice inherent in the transition to college from the institutional perspective, these initiatives fundamentally alter enrollment patterns, arbitrarily boosting enrollment in specific sections and departments by limiting access to others. Further, thoughtful input in the development and implementation of these course blocks from chairs, directors and faculty, those individuals who develop class schedules based upon student need and demand, has been minimal, at best. For these reasons, among others, the Academic Policies Committee recommends suspension of these practices (see Appendix B).

The Senate adopted this motion without dissent.

C. University Libraries Committee

Senator Miller reported:

The University Libraries committee met on March 7 to discuss and approve the library's strategic plan. The ULC also discussed the need for an ad hoc senate committee to set policies and vet proposals for the development of our institutional repository, IdeaExchange. The ULC may bring a proposal for the creation of such a committee to the senate before the May meeting.

D. Athletics Committee

Professor Nicholas reported on Athletics committees meetings; the Mid-American Conference graduation rate; the Athletic Director's concerns about the academic

performance of student athletes; a *Plain Dealer* report describing our athletic expenses as third-highest in the state; debt service for InfoCision stadium; the creation of a Head Injury Subcommittee; and a recent meeting of the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics. On behalf of the committee, Professor Nicholas moved that we become a permanent member of the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics. The motion was adopted without dissent (see Appendix C).

*X. Report from Carolyn Behrman – Faculty Director of Collaboration, EX[L] Center*

Professor Behrman provided a brief history of the EX[L] center and explained her role there.

*XI. Report from Graduate Council Representatives*

Senator Sterns reported on the integration of Graduate Council and Faculty Senate, as well as about the status of graduate assistantships and strategic initiatives.

*XII. Report from University Council Representatives*

Senator Erickson reported on the UC's response to the revisions to UC bylaws recommended by the Associated Board of Governors.

*XIII. New Business*

Senator Bouchard moved the following resolution:

Whereas, The GenEd Core 13 was put into place without meaningful faculty input;

Whereas, The results from the first year have shown it to fail at attracting or retaining or educating our students to high standards; and

Whereas, Delays in making decisions about next fall's classes would only hurt our students; therefore, be it

*Resolved* That the program should be immediately suspended.

Senator Howley moved that the Senate refer this motion to the Academic Policies Committee. This motion was adopted without dissent.

*XIV. Good of the Order*

There was nothing for the good of the order.

*XV. Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13pm.

## APPENDIX A

### REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

April 7, 2016

On Tuesday April 5th Academic Policies Committee discussed the block cohort enrollment and pre-registration initiatives utilized primarily by the Center for Academic Advising and Student Success. On the day of New Student Orientation incoming freshmen are pre-registered in courses, including specific sections and day/time combinations, prior to advising and without student input. Registration holds are also applied which prohibit students from altering the fall schedule without adviser consent. From the student perspective, these practices constitute the wholesale elimination of choice inherent in the transition to college. From the institutional perspective these initiatives fundamentally alter enrollment patterns, arbitrarily boosting enrollment in specific sections and departments while limiting access to others. Further, thoughtful input in the development and implementation of these course blocks from chairs, directors, and faculty, those individuals who develop class schedules based upon student need and demand, has been minimal at best. For these reasons, among others, Academic Policies Committee recommends suspension of these practices.



## APPENDIX B

## Report of the Curriculum Review Committee

Pending curriculum changes for Faculty Senate approval, April 2016.

BUS-FINAN-15-15162	Finance - Corporate Finl Mgmt
BUS-FINAN-15-15163	Research Project in Finance
BUS-FINAN-15-15211	Finance
BUS-FINAN-15-15697	Finance - Financial Services
BUS-MANGT-15-15799	Information Systems Management
CHP-NURIN-15-14308	Nursing of Families with Children
CHP-NURIN-15-15214	Nursing RN/BSN Akron
CHP-NURIN-15-15682	Advanced Adult/Gerontological Assessment with Practicum
EDUC-CURR-15-13115	Teaching Language Arts & Media to Middle Level Learners
SUMM-ENGRSCI-15-13553	Land Surveying
SUMM-ASSOC-15-16296	Workplace Writing
SUMM-ENGRSCI-15-13554	Surveying & Mapping
SUMM-ENGRSCI-15-15161	Mechanical Engineering Tech
SUMM-ENGRSCI-15-15269	Computerized Manufacturing Control
SUMM-ENGRSCI-15-15406	Electronic Engineering Tech
SUMM-ENGRSCI-15-15416	Electronic Engineering Tech
EDUC-CURR-15-15443	AYA - Integrated Mathematics
EDUC-CURR-15-15581	Engineering for Educators
CHP-NURIN-15-16259	Nursing RN/BSN Akron
EDUC-CURR-15-15168	Global Education and Technology
ENGR-BIOMED-15-13412	Biomedical Engineering
CHP-NURIN-15-14330	Post Master's Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist Certificate Program
CHP-NURIN-15-15681	Advanced Adult/Gerontological Assessment with Practicum
POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16037	Polymer Physical Chemistry
POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16061	Polymer Characterization
POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16062	Rheology, Processing and Evaluation of Polymeric Materials
POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16063	Research, Problem Solving and Communication of Technical Information
POLY-POLYDEAN-15-16064	Emerging Markets and Technologies
A&S-POLSC-15-14589	BA/JD Degree Program (3+3)
SUMM-ASSOC-15-16620	Supervision & Management
SUMM-ASSOC-15-16621	Professional Writing
POLY-POLYDEAN-15-15617	Professional Master of Science in Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering
SUMM-ENGRSCI-15-15137	Associate of Applied Science in Construction Field Operations

CHP-SPORTSCI-15-16208	Organization & Administration for Health Care Professionals
CHP-SPORTSCI-14-12263	Athletic Training
SUMM-BUSTECH-14-12660	Marketing & Sales Tech - Fashn
SUMM-BUSTECH-14-12677	Marketing & Sales Tech - Advt
SUMM-BUSTECH-14-9425	Hospitality Mgmt - Culin Arts
SUMM-BUSTECH-14-9426	Hospitality Mgmt - Hotl / Lodg
SUMM-BUSTECH-15-13379	Computer IS-Comp Mnt&Ntwk-Cisc
SUMM-BUSTECH-15-13381	Computer IS - Programming Spec
SUMM-BUSTECH-14-11628	Business Mgmt Tech - Acct
SUMM-BUSTECH-14-11629	Business Mgmt Tech - Small Bus
SUMM-BUSTECH-14-11630	Survey of Taxation
SUMM-BUSTECH-15-13382	Computer IS-Web Development

## APPENDIX C

### **Faculty Senate Athletic Committee Report 4/7/16**

John B. Nicholas, Chair

The Faculty Senate Athletic Committee met twice in March. March 8, 2016 and March 28, 2016.

The March 28, 2016 meeting was attended by Faculty Athletic Director to the NCAA, Deborah Owens who briefed the committee on initiatives and discussions from recent NCAA meetings.

Among the topics discussed were the Mid-America Conference (MAC) graduation rates Versus the federal rate. Also, discussed was the graduation rate of the University of Akron Athletics versus the other MAC schools and versus the Federal Graduation rate. UA Athletics compared favorably to the MAC and in many sports exceeded those schools graduation rate for athletes. Athletic Director Larry Williams talked about his dedication to academics. He mentioned the discussions he had with the coaches from the sports that had lower graduation rates and discussed a carry-over conversation from the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting during which creating incentives for coaches based upon academic success rather than athletic success.

The budget for UA athletics department was discussed in great detail. The Cleveland Plain Dealer published a report outlining the athletic budgets for each of Ohio's public universities. The budget for UA is \$34.1 million dollars and it was listed as third highest in the state. However, some changes in the accounting methods used versus previous year have occurred recently, specifically the debt service for InfoCision Stadium is now included in the budget which distorts the increase in budget over previous years. That amount is approximately \$4.5 million. It is also worth noting that the budget also includes the scholarship money that the athletic department pays back to the University in tuition, fees, housing and meal plans.

The continuation of the Head Injury sub-committee was discussed and it was agreed that the committee should continue for this academic year. The leadership of that committee will be determined at the next meeting.

During the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Faculty Senate Chair Bill Rich was in attendance to report on his impressions from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). COIA is an alliance of faculty senates from NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools. COIA's mission is to provide a national faculty voice on intercollegiate sports issues. Areas of concern include academic integrity and quality, student-athlete welfare, campus governance of intercollegiate athletics, commercialization, and fiscal responsibility. The Membership of the Faculty Senate to the COIA was discussed. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the two year trial membership.

While I was elected by this body to be the representative to COIA 2 years ago, I was

unable to attend the first meeting of our membership due to personal reasons. Chair Rich wanted to attend the meeting this year so he could also make a judgement about the group and whether or not this group is compatible with the mission and values of the University of Akron. The offer was extended for me to attend the meeting in Indianapolis this year, but I declined because I was confident that Chair Rich would make an informed report to the FSAC and our department was undergoing accreditation and the site visit was the day after the conference ended.

After a lengthy discussion at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was determined that COIA is in line with the mission and values of the University of Akron. There was not a quorum present at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting so the vote was postponed. There was a quorum present at the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made by Tim Lillie that the FSAC recommend to the Faculty Senate that we become permanent members of COIA. The motion passed without dissent.